

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 00177 080744Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
SSM-03 TRSE-00 IO-13 /073 W  
-----080746Z 091703 /12

R 080631Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4053  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 0177

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, LY, SY  
SUBJ: LIBYAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 814

SUMMARY: LIBYAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE  
DETERIORATED AS A RESULT OF THE ALLEGED MISTREATMENT  
OF SYRIANS IN LIBYA. LOCAL AUTHORITIES BLAME EGYPTIANS  
FOR ATTEMPTING TO "SOW DISCORD" BETWEEN LIBYA AND  
SYRIA. MEDIA REACTION HAS BEEN CIRCUMSPECT. PRESENT  
DISPUTE WILL PROBABLY DISSIPATE ITSELF AS BOTH SIDES  
SHOW CAUTION. END SUMMARY.

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1. LIBYAN-SYRIAN RELATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN  
SLIGHT TURN FOR THE WORSE DURING THIS PAST WEEK AS  
SYRIANS PROTEST AND LIBYANS DENY MISTREATMENT OF  
SYRIAN WORKERS IN LIBYA. THE SYRIAN ACCUSATIONS  
REPORTEDLY STEM FROM THE ALLEGED DEPORTATION OF  
APPROXIMATELY 30 SYRIAN BUSINESSMEN AND THE RANSACKING  
OF THE BENGHAZI RESIDENCE OF THE SYRIAN RELATIONS

REPRESENTATIVE.

2. LIBYAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THE ALLEGED DEPORTATION, BUT HAVE ISSUED A DENIAL OF A DAMASCUS NEWS REPORT (FBIS P040735Z FEB 4) THAT THE HOUSEBREAKING INCIDENT WAS "OFFICIALLY ENGINEERED." LARG MININT SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT THE LIBYAN AUTHORITIES ARE TAKING THE "USUAL MEASURES IN SUCH CASES." THE MININT STATEMENT ALSO CRITICIZED EGYPTIAN MEDIA REPORTS OF INCIDENT AS AN EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPT TO "SOW DISCORD" BETWEEN LIBYA AND SYRIA. STATEMENT BLAMES "EGYPTIAN AGENTS" FOR INCIDENT. BEYOND MININT STATEMENT LIBYAN MEDIA HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY SILENT ON QUESTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ONLY OTHER REPORT OF LOCAL MEDIA HAS BEEN THAT OF RETURN OF LIBYAN AMBASSADOR FROM DAMASCUS FOR CONSULTATIONS.

COMMENT: LIBYAN ALLEGED ACTIONS MAY WELL HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED BY QADHAFI'S CHAGRIN OVER SYRIAN ARREST OF LEBANESE ARAB ARMY COMMANDER LT. AHMED KHATIB. THE LAA COMMANDER HAS VISITED TRIPOLI AT LEAST THREE TIMES DURING PAST SIX MONTHS AND REPORTEDLY IS A FRIEND OF THE COLONEL'S. NEVERTHELESS, LARG HAS BEEN EXTREMELY CIRCUMSPECT IN ITS ONLY STATEMENT ON RECENT ALLEGED INCIDENTS. GIVEN LARG ACCUSATION THAT EGYPTIANS ARE INVOLVED IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND SYRIA, PRESENT DISPUTE WILL PROBABLY NOT ESCALATE BEYOND PRESENT LEVEL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTED SYRIAN REACTION OF "RELATIVE MODERATION" TO RECENT INCIDENTS APPEARS TO BE APPROACH NOW ADOPTED BY LIBYANS. BERGSTROM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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